
ENDURANCE:

Why we must endure

Hebrews 12:18-24 ESV

Their alternative to enduring

- First, an alternative devoid of relationship
 - *For you have not come to what may be touched*
 - **Hebrews 4:16 ESV, Hebrews 11:6 ESV**
- Second, a description of the alternative
 - *a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them*
 - **Deuteronomy 4:9-12 ESV**
- The results of their alternative: Fear
 - *Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."*
 - **Deuteronomy 9:19 ESV**
- This was what they could turn back to!
 - A situation of fear due to the judgment of their own sin. And because of their fear and sin: separation from God

Two alternatives to enduring "the race set before us"

Not Judaism but legalism:

- Legalism is behavior motivated by the false notion that sinners can earn favor with God, either before or after salvation, through legal means—obedience, ritual, self-denial, or whatever.

Not Judaism but functional atheism:

- Functional atheism is me disregarding God's plan of reconciliation for a self-determined way

God's means of salvation is displaced by us seeking to save ourselves

Our reason for enduring

But you have come

- You have come to = you get God!
 - **Hebrews 4:16 ESV, Hebrews 11:6 ESV**

7 descriptions of getting God

1. to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
 - **Hebrews 13:14 ESV**
2. and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
 - panegyris – a joyful gathering in order to celebrate a festival
3. and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,
 - the whole communion of saints
4. and to God, the judge of all,
 - relationship
5. and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
 - faithful men and women under both covenants who have died
6. and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
 - **Jeremiah 31:31-34 ESV, Hebrews 9:15 ESV**
7. and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
 - Means of mediation – sprinkled blood – death on a cross

Why we must endure?

We cannot get God any other way!